

January 8, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Biologist *Lyn K*

RE: Field Visit to Brush Wellman, Inc. Topaz Mining Properties,
ACT/023/003, Juab County, Utah

On January 6, 1988, Lynn Kunzler of the Division, Toby Manzanares and Tom Terry of the BLM, Fillmore Area Office, met with Ken Poulson and Lee Davis of Brush Wellman, Inc. and Joe Jarvis and Bob Bair of JBR Consultants. The purpose of this site visit was to acquaint the BLM staff with the site and to review the areas for which Brush Wellman, Inc. is requesting a variance from the revegetation requirements of Rule M-10(12).

Background

Brush Wellman, Inc. began mining beryllium on the subject properties in 1968. A Mining and Reclamation Plan was submitted in the mid-1970s, with tentative approval being granted in March of 1977. Brush Wellman was to develop a reclamation plan as a basis for the reclamation bond. The Division suggested that Brush Wellman save the 'tuff materials' which had better physical properties to spread on top of the dumps (overburden materials). Since the chemical nature of the 'tuff' was poor for a soil substitute material, test plots were implemented in 1977-78. Subsequent evaluation of the test plots showed very poor vegetation establishment, and additional soil testing showed the 'tuff' to be highly sodic and probably toxic to most vegetation. Brush Wellman discontinued covering the dumps with the 'tuff' and is currently covering this material with several feet of non-toxic rhyolite. In finalizing their reclamation plan, Brush Wellman has requested a variance from revegetating the existing 'tuff' covered dumps (Roadside #1 and Roadside #2 dumps involving 91 acres, and the sigma Emma dump involving 56.3 acres).

Discussion and Recommendations

All parties concerned are in agreement that the 'tuff' material is of very poor quality and can inhibit plant growth.

Page 2
Memo to File
ACT/023/003
January 8, 1988

Brush Wellman pointed out that natural 'tuff' outcrops are void of vegetation. While technology possibly exists that would establish some vegetation on the tuff material, costs would be very high and difficult to justify as being 'practical' considering the potential land uses and productivity of the area. Brush Wellman has proposed stabilizing the dumps with a berm at the toe of the dump slopes and another berm at the top of the slope to prevent runoff from the top of the dumps from eroding the slopes. The top of the dumps would also be ripped to increase infiltration.

In light of the above discussion, The BLM will support a variance to revegetation of the above named 'tuff' covered dumps. It is recommended that the Division grant the requested variance.

jr
cc: L. Braxton
S. Linner
1414R/1:2